



# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

APR 03 1989

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Gerald C. Parsons, Director  
Parsons Chemical Works, Inc.  
11780 East Andre Drive  
Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837

Chandler R. Parsons  
Registered Agent  
Parsons Chemical Works, Inc.  
Route #1, P.O. Box 146  
Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837

Chandler R. Parsons, Director  
Arlene R. Parsons, Director  
Parsons Chemical Works, Inc.  
138 Sinclair, S.E.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952-9141

Re: Parsons Chemical Works/ETM Enterprises Facility  
3652 Grand Ledge Highway, Grand Ledge, Michigan

Dear Mr. Parsons:

This letter will constitute notice to you and to Parsons Chemical Works, Inc. of certain response actions proposed to be taken at the Facility located at 3652 Grand Ledge Highway, Grand Ledge, Michigan (the Parsons/ETM Facility).

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is proposing to take corrective action to mitigate releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants and other contaminants at the Parsons/ETM Facility in Grand Ledge, Michigan. This action would be authorized under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 et seq., (CERCLA). U.S. EPA has completed an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) regarding contamination at the Site, and has concluded that corrective action is required at the Site in the near future. The EE/CA is being made available for public comment prior to a final decision to undertake the proposed action.

Under CERCLA, and other laws, responsible parties may be liable for money expended by the government to take necessary corrective action at the Site, including investigation, planning, cleanup of the Site, and enforcement. Potentially responsible parties under 42 U.S.C. § 9607 include the current owner and operator, and persons who generated or were involved in the transport, treatment, or disposal of hazardous substances at the Site.

CERCLA provides limited defenses to those named as responsible parties. The defenses include those provided at 42 U.S.C. § 9607(b) and the innocent purchaser defense. See, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(35). There has been some indication that the defenses set forth at 42 U.S.C. § 9607(b)(3) and the innocent purchaser defense might be raised in any action relating to liability for cleanup at the Parsons/ETM Facility. These defenses, however, are limited and fact specific. Thus, U.S. EPA cannot address the viability of any possible defenses at this time. They would be considered fully at an appropriate time later in the Parsons/ETM Site response action process.

Lead, mercury, arsenic and pesticides, including dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) and chlordane, have been found on the Site through analysis of sediment samples. Hydrogeological study has revealed pesticides, inorganics and semi-volatiles on Site. Tier 3 screening pursuant to the National Dioxin Study revealed the presence of 2,3,7,8-tetrachloro-dibenzo-p-dioxins (TCDD) in the Grand Ledge ditch sediments on the Site and in the area where the drain outfall meets an unnamed creek. Migration of contaminants may continue through soil erosion and percolation of water through the soils.

This Facility presents an immediate and substantial threat to human health and the environment. Hazardous materials may migrate off Site onto private property or may contaminate surface water in the area. The contamination at the Parsons/ETM Facility may result in actual or potential exposure to hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants by nearby populations, animals or food chain; in actual or potential contamination to ecological habitats; and in hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in soils largely at or near the surface that may migrate. These are criteria enumerated in the National Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR § 300.65(b)(2) as bases for expedited corrective action.

Pesticides are a persistent class of chemical compounds, with a high potential for bioaccumulation. Many pesticides, including DDT, are known carcinogens and have been banned from production and use in the United States due to adverse environmental effects. The chronic hazard level of pesticides is high, and includes potential contamination of the food chain. In particular, 2,3,7,8-tetrachloro-dibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD), is persistent in the environment. TCDD is bioaccumulative and may accumulate in the skin, muscle and fat tissue. TCDD is a suspected teratogen, and is a known carcinogen and mutagen. Exposure to TCDD results in health risks including chromosome damage, heart attacks and cancer.

Because CERCLA expressly provides for the responsibility of current owners, U.S. EPA believes that you may be a party responsible for the release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants from the Parsons/ETM Facility. Before the government undertakes any necessary action at the Site, we offer you the opportunity to perform any work which may be required to abate any releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from the Site. A final decision as to the work required at the Site will be made after U.S. EPA has received and considered any comments to the EE/CA for this Site. Any offer by Parsons Chemical Works, Inc. to perform the work required at the Site must include a demonstration of capability properly to perform the work required. If private party cleanup is not forthcoming and public funds are expended, Parsons may be liable for the costs incurred.

U.S. EPA proposes to initiate an immediate removal action as the first step towards mitigation of the release or threat of release of hazardous substances at the Parsons/ETM Site. These actions are designed to protect the public health from a release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants by conducting an in situ vitrification (ISV). ISV is projected to result in a twenty to thirty percent reduction in volume of contaminated substances, to decrease toxicity virtually to zero levels, and to permanently immobilize the hazardous substances on the Site.

Pursuant to Section 300.65 of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), U.S. EPA is proposing that the following steps must be taken at the Site: (1) develop and implement Site safety and security measures; (2) implement a Site air monitoring program; (3) conduct an extent of contamination study to identify horizontal and vertical extent of contaminated soils; (4) characterize, excavate and stage all contaminated soils to facilitate the ISV process; (5) treat on-Site waste in a staging area utilizing ISV; (6) complete Site restoration in the excavation and treatment areas. The foregoing work would have to be conducted in conformance with applicable state and federal law. Other corrective measures may be necessary following implementation of the specified work.

Should you wish to undertake corrective action at the Parsons/ETM Site, you should notify Assistant Regional Counsel Patricia L. Winfrey, in writing, by May 15, 1989. Any proposal submitted will be evaluated to determine whether it is a good faith offer to address the immediate problems at the Site.

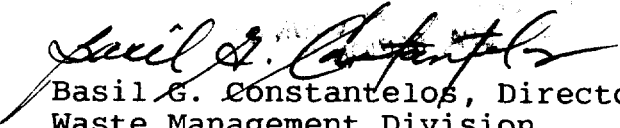
Should you decline to undertake any proposed corrective action, U.S. EPA may decide to go forward with corrective action. In that event, it will require access to the Parsons/ETM Facility to undertake the requisite work. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9604)(e)(3), representatives of U.S. EPA are authorized access to a facility to undertake any response action deemed necessary by the Agency. We are, therefore, requesting permission for access to the Parsons/ETM Facility. If permission is not granted voluntarily, U.S. EPA is authorized to take further action to obtain access pursuant to CERCLA. However, we would seek to obtain voluntary cooperation in these endeavors from you and from Parsons Chemical Works, Inc.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact:

Patricia L. Winfrey  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Mail Code 5CS-TUB-3  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Ms. Winfrey also may be reached by telephone at (312) 886-0564.

Sincerely yours,

  
Basil G. Constantelos, Director  
Waste Management Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION V  
230 SOUTH DEARBORN  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

5CS-TUB-3

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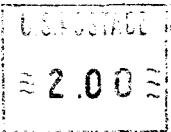
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AUTHORIZED TIME FOR FORWARDING 10%  
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Mr. Gerald C. Parsons  
Director  
Parsons Chemical Works, Inc.  
11780 East Andre Drive  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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<p>3. Article Addressed to:</p> <p>Gerald C. Parsons, Director Parsons Chemical Works, Inc. 11780 East Andre Drive Grand Ledge, MI 48837</p>	<p>4. Article Number</p> <p>P 298 721 181</p>
	<p>Type of Service:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Registered <span style="margin-left: 50px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Insured</span></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified <span style="margin-left: 50px;"><input type="checkbox"/> COD</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail</p>
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